The Center for Development and Disability

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to present the Center for Development and Disability annual report for FY 2010. The Center continues to grow in an attempt to meet the many and varied needs of children and adults with disabilities in New Mexico and their families.

2010 marked the twentieth anniversary of the Center. Throughout the calendar year we have celebrated this milestone and reflected back on the many accomplishments of the faculty and staff of the CDD. This report highlights several CDD projects that were completed in FY 2010 or are currently in process.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing to work with you for another 20 years!

Sincerely,

Cate McClain, MD, PT
Director, Center for Development and Disability

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Our Vision

Guided by individuals with disabilities and their families who help design, provide, and evaluate our efforts, the Center for Development and Disability:

- Identifies, develops, and strengthens opportunities and choices for all persons with disabilities and their families throughout their lives so that they are included in all aspects of society;
- Participates in collaborations to enhance resources and maximize opportunities for all persons with disabilities, their families, and those who support them;
- Responds to the most important interests and concerns of all persons with disabilities and their families through leadership in education, research and service; and
- Influences policies to reflect what is known about the variety of strengths and needs of all persons with disabilities and their families, while recognizing and integrating the diverse values of individuals, families, and communities.
The Center for Development and Disability (CDD) is New Mexico’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disability Education, Research and Service (previously known as UAP). These centers, authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, build the capacities of states and communities to respond to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The centers receive core funding from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) and obtain funding for other programs and projects through state contracts, federal grants, and private agencies. Together, the 67 centers, located in every state and territory, function as a national network of programs.

The mission of the CDD is the full inclusion of people with disabilities and their families in their community by engaging individuals in making life choices, partnering with communities to build resources, and improving systems of care.

The CDD accomplishes this mission through innovative:
- Interdisciplinary training
- Dissemination of information
- Provision of exemplary direct service and technical assistance
- Applied research

The following values direct the work of the CDD and its programs:
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Inclusion and accessibility for all individuals
- Partnerships and collaboration that encourages capacity building within communities
- Innovative, interdisciplinary, and research-based practice

The Center’s Impact in New Mexico

SERVICE TO NEW MEXICO

= Clinical service

= Training and technical assistance
Hi my name is Ruben and I am an artist. In 1988, I was injured from a gunshot wound; I was 18 years old. I’m a C-3 complete quad and 24 hour vent dependent. Shortly after my injury, I started using a mouth stick and a ball point pen to do some sketches. A few of them ended up in the display case at my rehab center. They were spotted by a local artist in the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. He then took it upon himself to kind of inspire me and tell me all about the association. So, for the next couple of years, I tried to produce a body of work that I thought would be sufficient for me to be accepted into this very prestigious association.

I create art mostly in the same way I did when I started, pointillism. I use fine point felt tip pens and I “stipple” or dot my way through the piece. First, I draw an outline with pencil and then I’ll color in the sketch, dropping in different colors and layers. It takes anywhere from 20 to 60 hours to complete a piece from beginning to end with this method.

I’ve also experimented using acrylics and oils in the more traditional form of painting by creating strokes with the paintbrush.

I never would have guessed in 1988 that I’d be painting with mouth sticks or paintbrushes and have a career as an artist. My art has been the biggest thing in my life that has kept me goal oriented and not just stagnant and sitting in one position. I have something to achieve. And if it weren’t for the opportunity I was given to pursue a career as an artist, I don’t think I’d be where I am today. I wouldn’t have the same quality of life. So, I’m grateful.

Ruben Rios was a keynote speaker at the 2009 Southwest Conference on Disability.

Model Classrooms for Training on Evidence-based Practice

In 2008, New Mexico was selected to partner with the National Professional Development Center (NPD) on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), funded by the Office of Special Education Programs in Washington, D.C. The purpose of this project is to identify and disseminate evidence-based practices for children and youth with ASD through a train-the-trainer model. The NPD project involves a multi-university coalition including the Frank Porter Graham Center at University of North Carolina, the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin and the MIND Institute at the University of California – Davis. The CDD Autism Programs worked with the NPD/MIND Institute to provide a Summer Institute for teachers and other school personnel and to begin establishment of model classroom sites throughout New Mexico. The initial selected sites were in the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) andRio Rancho Public Schools (RRPS) and during the second year of the project, new classrooms in both APS and RRPS were added to include preschool, elementary, mid and high school classrooms. During the next fiscal year, we intend to host another Summer Institute and will include a two day pre-conference devoted to evidence-based practices in the classroom and specific training for new model sites. Sites chosen for the 2010-2011 school year include the Santa Fe Public Schools and a rural school district, the Lovington School District.
CDD Programs and Projects

The Center for Development and Disability is made up of numerous programs and projects funded by a variety of federal and state agencies and private partners. All programs are aligned with the mission of the CDD and assure that services and supports are culturally appropriate and available statewide. CDD programs also support the mission of the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center as follows:

**Innovative, Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Education**

**Access to Electronic Consumer Health Information Project (AECHI)** is a training project to increase participants’ knowledge and use of currently available electronic health information and disability resources.

**AIM High** supports childcare training and technical assistance professionals, as well as selected childcare providers to facilitate the inclusion of young children with disabilities in childcare settings.

**ARRA Extended Part C** training supports early intervention providers in addressing new requirements for families choosing the Extended Part C option through transition planning and early literacy.

The **Autism Professional Development Program** provides hands-on teacher training preparing professionals to provide consultation, direct service and education to children with ASD, using modeling, coaching, feedback, and ongoing mentorship.

**Autism School Based Consultation** supports students with ASD in the classroom, through staff training, consultation, technical assistance and assessment of students with ASD.

**Circle of Security Training** enabled advanced trainees to receive in-depth professional development in the Circle of Security model.

The **Deaf Blind Program** provides technical assistance to teams of individuals working with adults with Deaf-blindness.

The **Developmental Screening Initiative** promotes earlier detection, referral, and intervention services for young children through training and on-going support for professionals in adoption of quality improvement methods.

The **Early Childhood Consultation Training** provided training for early childhood professionals and consultants to early childhood programs statewide.

The **Early Childhood Evaluation Program** offers training and technical assistance to community agencies and healthcare providers that serve young children with suspected disabilities or special health care needs. Clinical experience is provided for students in a variety of fields.

The **Early Childhood Network** provides collaborative training, consultation and technical assistance to professionals working with children birth to three, along with their families, where developmental delays or disabilities are suspected.

The **Early Childhood Transition Coordination Project** focuses on leadership training at the local level and supporting community transition teams to respond to local priorities in transition planning for children and families exiting early intervention services.

**Family and Community Education in ASD** is a statewide family support, technical assistance and training program utilizing experienced parent coordinators in their local communities.
Home Visiting Training provides on-going training and support, including monthly group reflective practice, to contracted home visiting programs throughout the state.

Home Visiting Training for Early Head Start provided introductory level information to New Mexico’s Early Head Start programs.

NM LEND Program is a national graduate and post-graduate leadership training program in neuro-developmental disabilities covering specific areas such as clinical skills, public policy, leadership, genetics, ethics, and family-centered care.

The Parameter Project is providing technical assistance and training to state and community providers in the use of guidelines to determine eligibility for skilled nursing care.

Partners in Public Health Information Outreach (NM/PPHP) seeks to increase the knowledge and use of electronic health information and disability resources as part of the public health infrastructure located in Sandoval County New Mexico.

Through a Partnership with the Pediatric Pulmonary Center (PPC) in the Department of Pediatrics, students join with the LEND program in all of the leadership activities as well as other selected sessions.

The Preschool Network provides training, technical assistance and evaluation support to professionals and paraprofessionals serving young children 3-5 years old with developmental delays in New Mexico.

Professional Development for Educators provides a Summer Institute for teachers working with children with ASD in the use of evidence-based practices and provides technical assistance to model classroom sites.

Project For New Mexico Children And Youth Who Are Deaf-blind provides technical assistance, training, distance education, and networking information statewide to families, service providers, and individuals, birth through 21, who are deaf-blind.
**Project Ristra** braids together the strands of support available for persons with significant developmental disabilities to obtain employment or generate income.

**Project SET** provides collaborative consultation and specific intervention plans, based upon the child’s specific learning style, to teams of individuals working with very young children with autism spectrum disorder.

**Quality Childcare for All** supports the work of Inclusion Specialists throughout the state through reflective supervision, promoting inclusive practices in childcare statewide.

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**Distance Learning and Web-based Courses**

**Child Development Audio Conference Series Journal**, is a collection of monthly publications developed as part of the audio series delivered to early intervention providers statewide.

**Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Peer Mentor Training and Certification Program** uses a combination of on-line and on-site training that will certify people to become Reeve Foundation Peer Mentors, who will provide support to people who are paralyzed, their families and caregivers.

**Clinical Neurosciences Seminar Series** for University of Ruhuna School of Medicine, Galle, Sri-Lanka which consisted of a series of telehealth seminars for faculty and residents from several departments.

**Early Childhood Learning Network Blog**, provides on-going technical assistance and information to early learning professionals.

**Family Infant Studies**, funded through ARRA/CYFD, partnered the CDD with Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) to address personnel shortages in home visiting through the development of AA level coursework. Courses are currently offered on-line and available statewide.

**Foundations for Health and Wellness** is the first of thirteen courses developed by the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division of the New Mexico Department of Health that the CDD is transforming into an on-line course for direct support staff in the state.

**Foundations of Autism** is an on-line course for school personnel; eight modules are included and range from diagnosis, characteristics and evidence-based practices in the classroom.

**New Practitioners Audio Conference Training Series Journal** is a collection of monthly publications developed as part of the audio series delivered to early intervention providers new to the field and/or the New Mexico Family Infant Toddler Program.

**Orientation to Part C** is an on-line course developed to provide an introduction to new professionals beginning work with New Mexico’s Part C early intervention programs statewide.

**Preschool Readiness** web-based training provides early intervention professionals with information about adaptations to service and the IFSP through the Extended Part C Option and family choice.

**Priorities, Resources & Concerns: Our Family Life, Parts 1 & 2**, is an online video training for IFSP development with families.

**Rural and Early Access for Children’s Health (REACH)** is a telehealth project providing distance education, case consultation, and direct early intervention services, through New Mexico’s existing telehealth networks and desktop technology.

**Self Study Course in Autism** is a web-based course designed for personnel serving adults with autism.

**SELF (Support for Early Learning Foundations) Outreach** is providing comprehensive training that demonstrates exemplary practice addressing the complex nature of self-regulation for infants and toddlers.

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**Applied Research, Policy Analysis and Systems Change**

**Autism Spectrum Disorders State Implementation Grant** is a systems change grant to implement and further define a state plan to serve individuals with ASD and other neurodevelopmental disabilities in New Mexico.
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation (CDRF) Research and Evaluation Project provides research and evaluation for the CDRF, including evaluating the effectiveness of CDRF’s health promotion activities, researching the incidence and prevalence of paralysis in the United States, conducting population-based longitudinal studies of paralysis-related topics, and evaluating the definitions-in-use of “quality of life” among people with a wide range of physical disabilities.

Developing an Evaluation System for Disability and Health State Grantees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is revising the system of impact indicators used by CDC-funded state grantees in sixteen states.

Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) Statewide Training Database oversees the collection and analysis of data on compliance with training policies and staff turnover in community provider agencies providing services under the Developmental Disabilities waiver program.

The ‘I Can Do It, You Can Do It’ health promotion intervention program was evaluated using a national randomized control-experimental group design to test the efficacy of the intervention.

Identification of Multi Systemic Factors Influencing Treatment Initiatives for Children With ASD is using a multi-systems approach to investigate the child-, family-, and community-based factors that best predict treatment initiation and rate of treatment received for children with ASD.

Improving The Quality of Life of People With Paralysis on The Navajo Nation is a cooperative project with Navajo Nurses United for Research, Education and Service (NNURSE) that is conducting research on the needs of people who are paralyzed on the Navajo Nation and designing programs to improve their quality of life.

Incorporating Motivational Techniques into Skills Training for Parents of Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders is a research project looking at the usefulness of motivational techniques for families enrolled in the Parent Home Program.

Increasing Retention Rates of New Mexico Direct Support Professionals conducted a comprehensive assessment of barriers to recruiting and retaining direct support professionals. Data was compared with a similar study done by the CDD in 2002.

Multi-sensory Integration in Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: an MEG study. In this pilot study we are investigating MEG markers of sensory integration in adolescents with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Network Connectivity and Dynamics in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders is a pilot study investigating fear conditioning in children with FASD using magnetoencephalography (MEG) with a view to assessing the integrity of cerebellar networks.

Pueblo Emergency Connections is a project to assist Native American persons with developmental disabilities and their families residing in the Sandoval County Pueblos to access services and supports as well as prepare for emergency situations.

Social Attribution and Executive Functioning in Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders aims to investigate the ability of alcohol exposed children to read social cues and to apply cognitive control to solve problems.

Survey Of Independent Living for New Mexicans With Disabilities is a statewide survey of New Mexicans with all types of disabilities on their need and preferences to enable them to live as independently as possible.
Think College is a planning project to identify the needs and opportunities for inclusive post secondary education for individuals with intellectual disabilities in New Mexico and to bring together stakeholders to develop an action plan that would result in measurable increases in participation of students with ID/DD in inclusive post secondary education.

Training-induced Plasticity of the Attentional System in Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders is investigating the effects of a computerized, 6-week training program designed to improve executive attention using high-density EEG and behavioral measures.

Training-induced plasticity of the motor system in children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is investigating the effects of a training program designed to improve motor sequencing in children with FASD and utilizes a number of neuroimaging modalities including fMRI, MEG, and EEG.

Interdisciplinary Healthcare and Client Services

The Adaptive Skill Building Program provides direct services to children ages 5–21 with ASD, to increase their abilities to function as independently as possible within their homes and communities.

Camp Rising Sun provides a specialized summer camp experience for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders ages 8-17, and an opportunity for graduate students and community professionals to gain experience with those diagnosed with ASD.

Early Childhood Evaluation Program provides statewide diagnostic and developmental evaluation services for children birth to three in their local communities.

Led by parents with knowledge of autism and services within New Mexico, Family Support Services provides information about ASD, referrals, advocacy information, and specific support to families of children enrolled in Autism Adaptive Skill Building Services.

Allan Anfinson, PhD, is a clinical psychologist working with the CDD’s Early Childhood Evaluation Program, a program that travels throughout NM providing support to rural communities.
The **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders (FASD) Clinic** is an interdisciplinary clinic that evaluates children who are suspected of having FASD.

**FOCUS** provides home visiting, early intervention and service coordination to families of young children at environmental risk, including prenatal drug exposure. Extensive services include medical care and support through the UNM Law Clinic.

**Growing In Beauty Developmental Services** provides early intervention services to Navajo children and their families living in Gallup-McKinley County through a contract with the Navajo Nation.

**Indian Children’s Program** provides supplemental services to Native American children, birth through 21 years old, who have developmental disabilities and special needs.

The **Liaison Project** provides supported nurse case management liaison services with other hospitals in New Mexico and surrounding states.

The **Medically Fragile Case Management Program (MFCMP)** provides Registered Nurse Case management/service coordination services statewide for children who are medically fragile and their families, via 7 community based satellite offices and 6 case managers in the metro area.

The **Neurodevelopmental Diagnostic (NDD) Clinic** is staffed by an interdisciplinary team able to provide a diagnosis confirming, or ruling out, autism or autism spectrum disorders for children 3 – 21.

The **Parent Home Training Program** offers home intervention and parent training to families of young children with ASD. The program provides child-specific and evidence-based intervention and training focused on increasing the child’s communication and positive behaviors.

The **Recreation Program** partners with community agencies to provide recreational experiences for adolescents and young adults with ASD.

**Reflejos Familiares (Family Reflections)** offers intensive case management services and group services, including prenatal support, to families of young children affected by substance abuse.

Family Resource Specialists in **Self-Directed Family Support Services** partner with families and individuals with disabilities statewide to develop individual support plans and budgets to access community resources.

**Supports and Assessment for Feeding and Eating (SAFE) Clinic** is a clinic that assesses feeding issues and makes recommendations to prevent aspiration for individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages.

**Voluntary In-Home Supports for Intervention, Outcomes, and Networking (VISION)** is a home visiting program for families of first born children providing on-going information and support to young families in Bernalillo County.

### Dissemination of Information

**CDD Library and Information Network** has a web-based catalogue of comprehensive resources (books, CDs, DVDs, training manuals & periodicals) that address the information needs of individuals with disabilities, their families, providers and advocates.

**Early Childhood UPDATES** is an archived newsletter produced and disseminated online, with a focus on services for children 0-3 years old and their families.

**Home Visiting Reflective Consultation Series** is a compilation of information, aligned with the New Mexico Early Childhood Mental Health Competencies for professional development and endorsement for home visitors.
Information Center for New Mexicans with disabilities and Babynet is an information and referral center.

Medicaid and Medicare Tip Sheets are a series of quick one page reference guides of basic information on state and federal programs with contact and web site information.

The Medically Fragile Case Management Family Networking Newsletter is a semi annual newsletter with a focus on keeping families informed of upcoming conferences, updates on any program or disability related topics/websites.

The Multicultural Outreach Program for the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation reaches out to diverse communities across the United States to build community partnerships and raise awareness of paralysis and resources available to the community.

Navigating Autism Services New Mexico is a guide for families and others that provides contact information for services that individuals with ASD may access throughout their lifetimes.

Preschool Network News is a bi-monthly newsletter produced and disseminated, in print and online, with a focus on services for children 3-5 years old.

Southwest Conference on Disability is an annual conference focusing on creating common ground between people with disabilities, researchers and policymakers.

Tip Sheets for First Responders is a field guide providing information to first responders on assisting persons with a wide range of disabilities during a natural or man-made disaster.

Touch Points is a newsletter for families and providers of children who have dual sensory impairments and is produced and disseminated by the Project for New Mexico Children & Youth who are Deaf/Blind.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles


Books & Book Chapters


**Test Development**


**Technical Reports & Non-refereed Publications**

**Cahill, A., Zilberman, L & Fredine, H.** (2009). *The Impact on Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation Paralysis Resource Center 2007-2009*, Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM


**Riley, C.** (2010). *New Early Childhood Coordinators Checklist*, Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM


**Staley, M.** (2009). *Santa Fe Community College Resource Manual*, Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

**Zaremba, M.** (2010). *Concerns, Priorities and Resources in the IFSP: Our Family Life, Parts 1 & 2*, Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

**Zaremba, M.** (2009). *Thirty Day Service Sheet*, Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque,

**Zaremba, M.** (2009). *Transition Timeline Tool*, Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
Funding Partners

**Government Grants and Contracts**

Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Albuquerque Public Schools
Blue SALUD, Blue Cross Blue Shield
Central New Mexico Community College (CNM)
Children’s Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Indian Health Services
Lovelace SALUD
Maternal Child Health Bureau, U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration
Molina SALUD
NM Department of Children, Youth and Families
NM Department of Health, Children’s Medical Services
NM Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Supports Division
NM Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
NM Governor’s Commission on Disability
NM Human Services Department
NM Public Education Department
Navajo Nation, Division of Diné Education, Office of Special Education & Rehabilitation Services
Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education
Presbyterian SALUD

**Corporations, Organizations & Foundations**

Albuquerque Community Foundation
American Association on Health and Disability
Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD)
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
City of Vision Civitan Club
Daniel’s Fund
Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation
McCune Charitable Foundation
New Mexico Autism Society
Optum Health
Stone Foundation
The Happy Jack Foundation
United Way of Central New Mexico
Wells Fargo Foundation

**Individuals**

The CDD gratefully thanks the staff and individuals from the community who made donations to contribute to the work of the CDD.

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Partners in Higher Education

This year, through ARRA funding and the Children Youth and Families Department, the CDD partnered with Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) in developing the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Studies Courses, a cluster of Associate level courses designed to prepare early care and education professionals in delivering home based services to infants, toddlers and their families. Working with an academic team supervised by CNM, the CDD managed an advisory board of key stakeholders who provided regular input and guidance to course development. All courses were prepared for on-line instruction helping make FIT Studies accessible throughout the state. Enrollment in the first course and its complementary practicum rapidly filled this fall, demonstrating the desire and demand for higher education in providing home based services to families and young children throughout New Mexico. Not only did the CDD help in bringing these courses to the state, but also gained a new partner through the collaboration with CNM.
National Presentations

Baker-McCue, T., Yuan, S., (November 2009). He Flushed My Teeth Down the Toilet is not a Medicaid Funded Entity, AUCD Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Baker-McCue, T., (October 2009). Designing Dreams for Persons with Disabilities, Southwest Conference on Disability, Albuquerque, NM.

Baker-McCue, T. & Ibanez, B., (October 2009). Right To Quality Of Life (Wish Supports): A Personal Network Success Story, Southwest Conference on Disability, Albuquerque, NM.


Cahill, A. & Mehta, P., (March 2010). Briefing on the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Center (PRC), New Orleans, LA.


Crowe, T.K., Introduction to Problem-Based Learning and Case Writing, College of St. Catherine’s, 2-day workshop, St. Paul, MN.

Davis-Constanza, S, Chiwatelu, B & Favret, J., (October 2009). Access to Electronic Consumer Health Information (AECHI), Southwest Conference on Disability, Albuquerque, NM.


Heimerl, S., (November 2009). Distance Education Utilizing Videoconferencing Technology, AUCD Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.


Hilton Miney, C., (October 2009). Transforming Parents Into Advocates, Southwest Conference on Disability, Albuquerque, NM.


Ibanez, B., (October 2009). Direct Support Professionals Have Right to be Respected, Southwest Conference on Disability, Albuquerque, NM.

King, L., (October 2009). Community Inclusion: Through Theatre for Adolescents and Young Adults with Autism, AUCD Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Moriarta, M., & MacLean, P., (October, 2010). Success and Challenges in Evaluating Very Young Children Using a Relationship-based and Family Centered Perspective: One team’s reflections. Southwest Conference on Disability, Albuquerque, NM.


Sanchez-Wilkinson, E., (October 2009). A Family’s Journey: Joseph’s Photo Diary, Southwest Conference on Disability, Albuquerque, NM.


McClain, C., (September, 2009). Does LD only mean inability to read and write?, National Childhood Disability Conference, Indian Academy of Pediatrics, Mumbai, India.


Winkle, M. & Crowe, T.K. Assistance Dogs as Alternative Assistive Technology Options (poster), World Federation of Occupational Therapists, Santiago, Chile.
Project Ristra

Project Ristra is an innovative program at the Center for Development and Disability (CDD) at the University of New Mexico. Funded through a federal Medicaid infrastructure grant with the NM Human Services Division, the CDD project is named for the traditional chile ristra symbolic to New Mexico. Project Ristra braids together the strands of support available for persons with developmental disabilities to obtain employment or generate income.

Persons with developmental disabilities face many barriers in obtaining employment and accessing supports. Assistance and services are often fragmented and difficult to navigate. In addition, many persons with disabilities fear they will lose needed benefits such as Medicaid if they begin to gain income.

Project Ristra is a statewide program that connects persons with disabilities to trained facilitators in their communities to assist them to find jobs or create their own businesses and to better understand available benefits. Ristra facilitators partner with persons with developmental disabilities to develop employment plans that focus on their abilities and build supports that address health, transportation, housing and other employment issues.

Pursuing our Mission: Birth to Five

When New Mexico was chosen by both SpecialQuest Birth to Five and the National Professional Development Center on Inclusion as a key state to expand inclusive services for young children, the CDD had already provided strong leadership in preparing both proposals and in establishing inclusive practices through a wide range of opportunities for young children and their families. For the past four years we have supported a group of Inclusion Specialists working with early care and education centers throughout the state, helping childcare workers increase skill and confidence when young children with disabilities are in their care. Inclusion Specialists receive regular reflective consultation through CDD staff, providing them with an opportunity to share challenges and successes in their work for collaborative problem solving. In addition, all early childhood training and technical assistance personnel have been offered support through Early Childhood Consultation training and SpecialQuest Birth to Five training designed to increase skill and knowledge to ensure that children with disabilities and their families are provided equal access to inclusive communities.
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<tr>
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<td>Cathy Geary, RN, BSN</td>
<td>Operations Manager, Medically Fragile Case Management Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dawn Giegerich, MA</td>
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<td>Olivia Gonzales, BA</td>
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<td>General Office Helper, Neurodevelopmental Services Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Griffin</td>
<td>Family Specialist, Medically Fragile Case Management Program, CDD Information Network, Project Ristra</td>
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<td>Patricia Gull</td>
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<td>Martha Haines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Hall, MD</td>
<td>Research Assistant Professor, NM LEND Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doreen Hamlin</td>
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<td>Amber Hayes, PsyD</td>
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<td>Kathleen Hedemann, MS, PT</td>
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<td>Sandra Heimerl, PT, DPT, MS</td>
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<td>Lisa Helenius, MA, MOT, OTR/L</td>
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<td>Piyadasa Kodituwakkul, PhD</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Autism Programs, Indian Children’s Program, NM LEND Program</td>
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<td>Anita Lewis, RN, BSN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judith Liddell, MBA</td>
<td>Program Operations Director, On-Call Consultant for All Divisions</td>
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<td>Judy Liesveld, PhD, RN, CPNP</td>
<td>NM LEND Program</td>
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<td>Patricia Lilley, SLP</td>
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<td>Monica Lucero, BA</td>
<td>Case Manager, FOCUS, Vision</td>
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<td>Chinda Lucoski, BA</td>
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<td>Nadine Maes</td>
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<td>Jean Maurice, BA</td>
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<td>Nikki McCarthy, LISW</td>
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<td>Joseph McCarty, PhD</td>
<td>Visiting Assistant Professor, Indian Children’s Program, Autism Clinic</td>
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<td>Catherine McClain, MD, PT, FAAP</td>
<td>Professor, Center Administration, NM LEND Program, Autism Programs</td>
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<td>Jacquelyn McNonachie</td>
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<td>Shawna McGill, RN, MSN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molly McLaughlin, OT</td>
<td>Program Manager, Project for New Mexico Children and Youth Who are Deaf-Blind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pretty Mehta, BA</td>
<td>Program Specialist, Disability &amp; Health Policy Division</td>
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<td>Victoria Mendiola</td>
<td>Student Employment, Early Childhood Learning Network</td>
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<td>Maryellen Missik-Tow</td>
<td>Development Specialist, Neurodevelopmental Services Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alejandro Moralez, MSW, LISW</td>
<td>Counselor/Soc Wkr (Senior), Autism Programs, NM LEND Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucia Morlanta, PsyD</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Clinical Services, Early Childhood Evaluation Program, NM LEND Program</td>
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<td>Sandra Murdock, MD</td>
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<td>Roxanne Murillo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison Noble, BA</td>
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<td>Mary “Sonic” Nowak</td>
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<td>Patricia Osbourn, MA, SLP/C, CED</td>
<td>Program Operations Director, Neurodevelopmental Services Division, NM LEND Program</td>
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<td>Mette Pedersen, MA, MEd</td>
<td>Program Operations Director, Early Childhood &amp; Specialized Personnel Development Division</td>
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<td>Patricia Peebles, PhD</td>
<td>Health Sciences / Associate Scientist 3, Center Administration</td>
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<td>Sarah Pierce, BA</td>
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<td>Max Pohl</td>
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<td>Marianne Potts, RN, MS</td>
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<td>Tanya Ramos, PhD</td>
<td>Child Development Specialist, Early Childhood Evaluation Program</td>
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<td>James Scott, MA, SLP/C</td>
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<td>Phyllis Shingle, M.S.</td>
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<td>Mary Ann Sims, RN, BSN</td>
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<td>Melody Smith, MPA</td>
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<td>Nellee Thompson, MBA</td>
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<td>Elvira Toca</td>
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<td>Amanda Vigil, BS</td>
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<td>Christine Vining, MS, SLP</td>
<td>Program Manager, Growing In Beauty, Indian Children’s Program</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Training and Development Consultant, Early Childhood Network, Home Visiting Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Zuniga, RN, BSN</td>
<td>RN Case Manager, Medically Fragile Case Management Program</td>
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</table>
CDD Data for FY10

- Clinical training and/or technical assistance occurred in every county in New Mexico.

- The CDD provided 405 training activities to a total of 11,657 participants covering a wide variety of topics in the field of developmental disabilities.

- CDD faculty and staff responded to more than 2,883 technical assistance requests and more than 16,411 individuals participated.

- Through the various clinical programs in the CDD, 1986 clients received clinical service. Many of these individuals received services several times throughout the year, totaling 24,534 visits.

- The Center for Development and Disability Information Network resource center, a CDD/NM DDPC collaboratively run program, reported 13,644 contacts for the year.

- The Center for Development and Disability Information Network Library responded to 8,308 requests for information or library services for the year.

CDD faculty and staff provided teaching or mentoring to more than 1,736 graduate and undergraduate students from dentistry, education, public administration, family advocate, medicine, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychology, public health and social work.

Patrick Griffin is a 25 year old charming, social young man with a good sense of humor. A Ristra Facilitator has partnered with Patrick and his family to develop a new enterprise watering and caring for plants in offices.